

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1.A method for enabling a computer to self-start comprising:

selecting a predetermined time for self-start when the computer is on;

adjusting an alarm setting stored in a memory of an RTC/NVRAM chip (Real-time Clock/Non-Volatile RAM memory chip) according to the predetermined time;

powering the computer off; and

providing electrical power with a power supply if a clock value of the RTC/NVRAM chip matches the alarm setting.

[c2] 2.The method of claim 1 further comprising:

enabling the System Control Interrupt (SCI) bit in a Southbridge chipset of the computer; wherein the Southbridge chipset is able to respond to a matching signal sent from the RTC/NVRAM chip when the computer is off

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[c3] 3.The method of claim 2 further comprising:

employing a BIOS to enable the SCI bit in the Southbridge chipset.

- [c4] 4.The method of claim 1 further comprising:
sending a matching signal from the RTC/NVRAM chip by
changing the value of the 11th byte in the memory of the
RTC/NVRAM chip;
- 5.The method of claim 1 further comprising:
activating the SCI pin of a Southbridge chipset in the
computer to send a power on signal in response to a
match between the clock value of the RTC/NVRAM chip
and the alarm setting stored in the memory of the RTC/
NVRAM chip.
- [c5] 6.The method of claim 1 wherein the providing electrical
power step further comprises:
sending a power on signal to the power supply via the
power supply connector on the motherboard;
powering the voltages in the pins of the power supply
connector to the appropriate levels;
checking if the voltages in the pins of the power supply
connector are stable;
sending a power good signal from the power supply to a
processor of the computer; and
starting the computer.
- [c6] 7.The method in claim 1 wherein selecting the predeter-
mined time further comprises:
using an application of an operating system in the com-
puter to select the predetermined time.

- [c7] 8.The method in claim 7 wherein the application of an operating system employs a driver to relay the selected predetermined time to the BIOS.
- [c8] 9.The method in claim 1 wherein the adjusting of the alarm setting further comprises:
employing a BIOS to adjust the alarm setting in the memory of the RTC/NVRAM chip.
- [c9] 10.A computer capable of self-start comprising:
a first memory for storing a BIOS;
a clock for tracking time;
a second memory for storing the time value of the clock and a predetermined alarm setting;
a communication management circuit for controlling peripheral memory buses; and
a power supply for providing electrical power to the computer;
wherein the BIOS is capable of establishing a pathway from the second memory to the communication management circuit so that when the computer is off and a signal is sent from the second memory to the communication management circuit in response to a match made between the clock and the predetermined alarm setting, the communication management circuit is able to respond by sending a power on signal to the power supply

in the computer, and thereby allowing the computer to self-start.

- [c10] 11.The computer in claim 10 wherein the second memory storing the time value of the clock and the predetermined alarm setting is a CMOS memory.
- [c11] 12.The computer in claim 11 wherein the CMOS memory is part of an RTC/NVRAM chip.
- [c12] 13.The computer in claim 10 wherein the clock is part of an RTC/NVRAM chip.
- [c13] 14.The computer in claim 10 wherein the communication management circuit is a Southbridge chipset.
- [c14] 15. The computer in claim 14 wherein the communication management circuit comprises:
a register for storing System Control Interrupt (SCI) information.
- [c15] 16.The computer in claim 10 wherein the first memory for storing the BIOS is of Read Only Memory (ROM) type.